



12th June 2019

Deputy Micheál Martin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 22530/19

To ask the Minister for Health his views on the increased prevalence of type 1 and 2 diabetes; the number of specialist consultants employed in this area by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Martin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Increased prevalence of type 1 and 2 diabetes

The number of people living with diabetes has increased significantly in recent decades to approximately 420 million worldwide. It is estimated that there are approximately 225,000 people diagnosed with diabetes (type 1 and 2) in Ireland, set to increase to approximately 279,00 by 2030 (International Diabetes Federation, 2013).

A key enabler in reducing the prevalence of type 2 diabetes (T2DM) in Ireland is the development and implementation of a National Diabetes Prevention Programme. The recent agreement between the Department of Health and the Irish Medical Organisation on a major package of GP contractual reform will enable GP's to identify people at high risk of developing T2DM and allow targeted comprehensive preventive services for these people. In preparation for this, a National Diabetes Prevention Working Group was formed in 2018. This is a multidisciplinary working group tasked with agreeing and planning a standardised and coherent pathway of care for people identified as being at high risk of developing T2DM. If individuals are being identified as being at high risk of developing T2DM, they require access to a diabetes prevention programme incorporating behaviour change, diet modification and exercise to address their needs. It is envisaged that the National Diabetes Prevention Programme would be delivered in a similar format to the existing Structured Patient Education for T2DM, however, the impact is likely to be greater as it targets people earlier and aims to prevent them from crossing the threshold and developing T2DM. The National Diabetes Prevention Programme is currently being developed with the aim of piloting it in 2020.

Number of Consultant Endocrinologists in Ireland

In 2017 the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes completed a survey of all public hospitals currently providing diabetes care in Ireland to establish existing diabetes services and to identify needs and gaps within the system. This survey can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2loyNDm>.

All 31 hospital services providing diabetes care in Ireland participated in the survey. The number of Consultant Endocrinologists providing diabetes care in Ireland was captured as part of this survey. Of the 31 hospital services delivering diabetes care, 29 reported having one or more Consultant Endocrinologist posts with a total of 49 Consultant Endocrinologist posts across these 29 hospital services.

Hospital catchment areas often span multiple counties. Presenting the number of Consultant Endocrinologists by county is not reflective of the distribution of service provision nationally.

Hospital Group	Hospital	Population *	Actual WTE dedicated to diabetes care
Ireland East	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	180,934	2
	Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar	95,496	0.3
	Our Lady's Hospital Navan	116,506	0.6
	St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny	124,807	0.2
	St. Vincent's University Hospital	359,709	0.6
	Wexford General Hospital	158,937	0.25
	St. Columcilles	Not available	0.45
	St. Michaels	Not available	0.4
Dublin Midlands	Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise	137,692	0.6
	Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore	78,461	0
	Naas General Hospital	180,011	0.6
	St. James' Hospital	206,677	1
	Tallaght Hospital	216,499	1.5
RCSI	Beaumont Hospital	287,562	0.8
	Cavan General Hospital; Monaghan General Hospital ***	141,786	0
	Connolly Hospital	253,297	0.7
	Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda; Louth County Hospital ***	213,198	0.3
South South-West	Cork University Hospital	510,394	0.5
	Kerry General Hospital	170,607	0.25
	South Tipperary General Hospital	138,889	0.3
	University Hospital Waterford	112,733	0.3
	South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital; Mercy University Hospital ***	Not available	0.25
	Bantry General Hospital	Not available	0.25
	Mallow General Hospital	Not available	0
UL	University Hospital Limerick; Nenagh General Hospital; St. Johns Hospital; Ennis Hospital. ***	347,157	0.5
Saolta	Galway University Hospital	206,519	1.4
	Letterkenny General Hospital	151,189	0.3
	Mayo General Hospital	144,255	0.3
	Portiuncula Hospital	120,737	0.6
	Sligo Regional Hospital	107,813	0.8
	Roscommon University Hospital	Not available	0

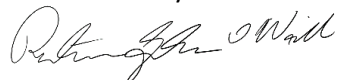
* Population data sourced from <https://www.healthatlasireland.ie/>

***In the following hospitals a single diabetes specialist team provide care over two or more hospital sites and one survey was completed for each team:
 ◆Cavan and Monaghan; ◆Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda and Louth County Hospital; ◆University Hospital Limerick, Ennis General Hospital, Nenagh General Hospital and St John's Hospital, Limerick; ◆SIVUH and Mercy Hospital

Table 1: Consultant Endocrinologist staffing levels in hospital services in Ireland in 2017.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ms Patricia Gilsonan O'Neill
 General Manager